



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Agriculture and Food

LUANN ADAMS
Commissioner

SCOTT ERICSON
Deputy Commissioner

Local Food Advisory Council

2017 Annual Report

Assembling a Council:

After HB 121, Local Food Advisory Council was passed by the 2017 Legislature and signed into law, bill sponsor Rep. Stephen G. Handy (R-Layton) and Jack Wilbur, designated staff at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) started the process of assembling the Council. Of the 13 members, three are legislators. Rep. Handy and Sen. Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake) are the Council co-chairs, and the third Legislative member is Rep. Marie Poulson (D-Salt Lake). One employee from the Utah Department of Health and one employee from UDAF are appointed by their respective agency leadership. The other eight members are appointed by the Governor from applications received at the Governor's website boards.utah.gov.

Applications were solicited and received in May and June, 2017. The Governor's Office appointed the remaining eight positions in mid-August. At the printing of this report the council members are:

- Representative Steve Handy (R-Layton) (co-chair)
- Senator Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake) (co-chair)
- Representative Marie Poulson (D-Salt Lake)
- Bjorn Carlson, Blue Tree Farms, Bluebell, Utah
- Shayn Bowler, Utah Natural Meat, West Jordan, Utah
- Carly Gillespie, B.U.G. Farms, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Jordan Riley, Riley Farms, Perry, Utah
- Maryann Alston, Urban Farm and Feed, Sandy/Draper, Utah
- Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau
- Marti Woolford, Utahns Against Hunger
- Dr. Kelsey Hall, Utah State University
- Heather Borski, Utah Dept. of Health
- Wayne Bradshaw, Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food

The Council met twice in 2017, September 21 and October 26. Over the next five years the Council will study and make recommendations on:

- How to best promote vibrant, locally owned farms
- How to best promote resilient ecosystems
- How to best promote strong communities and healthy eating
- How to best enhance thriving local food economies
- How best to assess impacts of population growth and urbanization and the decline in productive ranch and farmland

Council Priorities

During the first meeting of the Local Food Advisory Council, September 21, 2017, several potential priorities were discussed. They include:

- Food Co-ops—consumer owned stores that buy and sell local farm and value added food products
- Regulations that impact farms and food producers—can any of them be simplified or eased without putting the public at risk
- Agri-tourism—corn mazes, hay rides, pumpkin patches, etc. as a way to increase local food sales and farmer income
- Food hubs—local distribution systems designed to increase farmer income and local access to local food
- Increase access to local food by low income people—through easier use of SNAP and other benefits to buy local food at farm stands, farmers markets, etc.
- Increase farmer income—through innovative crops and production techniques, innovative products, and improved distribution
- Marketing and education as a way to increase access to local food
- Farm to school and other institutional local food distribution outlets
- Increase farm production through technologies to grow more food on less land
- Preserve agricultural land

The Council continued to discuss priorities during the second meeting, October 26, 2017 at Riley Orchards located in Perry, Utah. Ad-hoc working groups were formed to research, better identify problems and potential solutions, and review priority areas. The working groups will meet remotely via email, telephone conference calls, video conferencing, etc. At the next full council meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 2018, the working groups will begin to present findings to the Council for consideration for inclusion in the next annual report.

The working groups are:

- Ag. Land Preservation--Research ways to preserve small and larger plots of farm land in the face of population growth and development pressure.
- Regulations--Review food safety and other regulations impacting farmers and food producers.
- Innovations in Production—Examine the feasibility of introducing production innovations including food innovation centers, aquaponics, season extension, new crops, etc, to increase local food supplies and farmer income.
- Innovations in Distribution—Review at food hubs, improved efficiencies with use of SNAP benefits, etc, to improve local food distribution and food access in Utah.